



Southeast Fishery Bulletin

National Marine Fisheries Service, Southeast Regional Office, 9721 Executive Center Drive N., St. Petersburg, FL 33702

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:

Mark Godcharles or Mark.Godcharles@noaa.gov
727/570-5305, FAX 727/570-5583
<http://caldera.sero.nmfs.gov>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

August 14, 2000
NR00-041

CHANGE IN THE STARTING DATE OF THE FALL COMMERCIAL RED SNAPPER SEASON FROM SEPTEMBER 1 TO OCTOBER 1 AND OTHER MANAGEMENT MEASURES

NOAA Fisheries is publishing a final rule to implement management measures for the Gulf of Mexico red snapper season that are contained in a regulatory amendment prepared by the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council. Most of these measures, including all measures pertaining to recreational fishermen and a change in the spring commercial season, were previously implemented by interim rules beginning January 2000. This final rule extends those provisions indefinitely and adds a change in the start date of the fall commercial season and a minor change in the seasonal allocation of the commercial quota between the spring and fall seasons.

This final rule:

- changes the starting date of the fall commercial season from September 1 to October 1;

- allocates two-thirds of the commercial red snapper quota to the spring season with the remainder available for the fall season;
- continues the 10-day openings each month of the spring red snapper commercial season;
- continues a recreational minimum size limit of 16 inches (commercial minimum size limit remains 15 inches);
- continues a recreational season of April 21 to October 31;
- continues the 4-fish bag limit for captain and crew of for-hire vessels.

This and other news releases are available on the SERO homepage at <http://caldera.sero.nmfs.gov>. NOAA Fisheries is an agency of the Commerce Department's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

FIRST CLASS MAIL
POSTAGE & FEES PAID
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
PERMIT NO. G-19

National Marine Fisheries Service
Southeast Regional Office, F/SER23
9721 Executive Center Drive North
St. Petersburg, FL 33702

Official Business
Penalty for Private Use - \$300
NR00-041